



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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Five illegal aliens arrested and more than 650 vehicles inspected in ICE-led operation at Miami International Airport (MIA)

MIAMI- Five illegal aliens were arrested and more than 650 vehicles were inspected yesterday at Miami International Airport (MIA) during an operation led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies teamed up to identify and neutralize potential public and national security threats at the airport. The operation dubbed "March Madness" focused on identifying administrative and criminal violations including immigration violations, HAZMAT violations and driving violations.

Among the five men arrested was a 32-year-old illegal alien who had access to the airfield. Hector Lencina, a citizen of the Dominican Republic worked as a truck driver for a cargo company. Lencina entered the country on May 18, 2005 on a visitor's visa.

Lencina ignored the requirements of his visa and overstayed. Lencina did not have a permit to work in the United States. ICE special agents charged Lencina with immigration violations and he was served with a Notice to Appear (NTA) before a federal immigration judge. The ICE investigation into how he obtained a badge to the secure airfield is ongoing.

Also arrested were four Brazilian nationals who worked as chauffeurs for Lake Limo Services, a limo service company with transportation to and from the airport. The Brazilians also overstayed their visas. None of the men were legally authorized to work in the country.

The vehicle inspections yielded 48 citations for traffic and criminal violations. The citations ranged from not having a valid Florida driver's license to having a suspended license. Additionally, two vehicles were towed off the airfield for security violations.

"The results of this multi-agency effort speak volumes to the collaborative spirit in the law enforcement community here in South Florida to ensure the safety and security of our citizens," said

Jesus Torres, special agent-in-charge of ICE in Miami. “These types of operations are among ICE’s highest priorities.”

This operation was the result of a collaborative effort between, ICE, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP); the Miami-Dade Aviation Department; the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD); the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP); the Miami-Dade Consumer Services Department; the North Miami Beach Police Department (NMBPD); the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); the Transportation Security Administration (TSA); the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT); the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); the United States Secret Service (USSS) and the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office.

Mr. Torres praised the efforts of all participating agencies.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.